

COMMENTS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on July 18, 2003. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1 through 56 were pending. By way of the present response, the Applicant has: 1) amended claims 1, 14, 47 and 56; and, 2) neither canceled nor added any claims. As such, claims 1 through 56 remain pending. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of claims 1 through 56.

Each of independent claims 1, 14, 19, 34, 47, 52 and 56 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,516,369 B1 (hereinafter, "Bredin"). "To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim" MPEP 2131. The Applicant commends the Examiner for the finding of the pertinent Bredin reference. The token arbitration unit (42) of Bredin appears to roll a vector of request values and the weighted arbitration unit (44) of Bredin appears to extract a first active request value from the rolled vector.

The Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the Applicant's specification discloses a distributed grant generation scheme having a plurality of grant generation units whereas the Bredin reference only discloses a serial grant generation scheme having a single grant generation unit (i.e., aligner unit (46)). The Examiner is referred to Figures 3a, 3b and 6 of the Applicant's specification and their corresponding discussion where reference to a plurality of grant generation units is clearly made.

Each of independent claims 19, 34, 52 and 56 have always included "a plurality of grant generation units" as part of the subject matter being claimed. As such, Bredin fails to anticipate any of these claims.

Independent claims 1, 14 and 42 have been amended so as to clearly address distributed approaches.

Accordingly, all independent claims of the present application are in allowable form. Therefore all claims are presently in allowable form.

The Applicant therefore respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Robert O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 10/20/03



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